This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

b.) Listing of Claims

1. (Previously presented) A method for filling a panel having an internal volume with particulate matter, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a panel having a length, width, and an internal volume,
(b) providing a supply of particulate matter,
(c) subjecting the panel to a vibratory motion,
(d) filling at least a portion of the internal volume of the panel with the particulate matter while the panel is being subjected to the vibratory motion,
(e) repeating steps (c) and (d) until the internal volume of the panel has been filled with the desired amount of particulate matter,

wherein at least a portion of a static electricity produced prior to or during filling the panel is discharged.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the vibratory motion is a shock-free, sinusoidal motion.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises subjecting the panel to at least one tamping motion directed along the length of the panel.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the tamping motion is generated by impacting a portion of the panel on a stationary surface.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the tamping motion subjects the panel to at least one deceleration of at least about 900 m/s^2.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the panel is simultaneously subjected to the at least one tamping motion and the vibratory motion.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the vibratory motion is ceased before the panel is subjected to the tamping motion.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein an amount of humidified air sufficient to reduce the amount of static electricity produced upon filling the at least a portion of the internal volume of the panel with the particulate matter is injected into the internal volume of the panel while the panel is being filled with the particulate matter.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the humidified air has a relative humidity of about 80% or more.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein step (d) further comprises ionizing the atmosphere surrounding a point where the particulate matter enters the internal volume of the panel.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the atmosphere is ionized using a corona discharge.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the particulate matter comprises metal oxide aerogel particles selected from the group consisting of silica aerogel particles, titania aerogel particles, alumina aerogel particles, and combinations thereof.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the metal oxide aerogel particles are silica aerogel particles.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the particulate matter comprises organic aerogel particles selected from the group consisting of resorcinol-formaldehyde aerogel particles, melamine-formaldehyde aerogel particles, and combinations thereof.

17.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for filling a vessel with particulate matter, the vessel having a surface and an internal volume, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a carrier assembly, the carrier assembly having a length and a width and being provided at an angle greater than zero degrees and less than or equal to ninety degrees relative to horizontal, the carrier assembly being adapted to carry and retain the vessel,

(b) an actuating assembly, the actuating assembly positioned to contact a portion of the carrier assembly and being adapted to reciprocally move the carrier assembly, and

(c) a container, the container comprising at least one opening and being adapted to contain the particulate matter, the container positioned above the vessel so that the particles flow through the opening and into the internal volume of the vessel.

20. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the actuating assembly comprises a spiral cam assembly, the cam assembly being adapted to provide a low frequency tamping motion to the carrier assembly.

21. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the apparatus further comprises a vibrator assembly, the vibrator assembly positioned to contact at least one of a portion of the carrier assembly or the surface of the vessel to impart a vibratory motion to the vessel when disposed on the carrier assembly.

22. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the vibrator assembly comprises a transport assembly and a vibrator panel, and the transport assembly is

positioned to allow the vibrator assembly to travel along the length of the carrier assembly.

23. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the vibrator panel is suspended from the transport assembly, and the vibrator panel is positioned to contact the surface of the vessel.

24. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the apparatus further comprises a static discharge assembly, the static discharge assembly positioned a distance from the vessel, the distance being of a size sufficient to allow static electricity produced upon filling the vessel to discharge from the vessel to the static discharge assembly.

25. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the static discharge assembly comprises a plurality of metallic protrusions and an electrical ground, the metallic protrusions being connected to the electrical ground.

26. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the container comprises an upper hopper and a lower hopper, and the lower hopper is attached to the carrier assembly and adapted to receive a portion of the vessel.

27. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the container further comprises a second static discharge assembly, and the second static discharge assembly is positioned adjacent to the opening.

28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the second static discharge assembly comprises a corona discharge ionization bar.

29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus for filling a vessel with particulate matter, the vessel having a surface and an internal volume, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a carrier assembly, the carrier assembly having a length and a width and being provided at an angle greater than zero degrees and less than or equal to ninety degrees relative to horizontal, the carrier assembly being adapted to carry and retain the vessel,

(b) a vibrator assembly, the vibrator assembly positioned to contact at least one of a portion of the carrier assembly or the surface of the vessel to impart a vibratory motion to the vessel when disposed on the carrier assembly, and

(c) a container, the container comprising at least one opening and being adapted to contain the particulate matter, the container positioned above the vessel so that the particles flow through the opening and into the internal volume of the vessel.

30. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the vibrator assembly comprises a transport assembly and a vibrator panel, and the transport assembly is positioned to allow the vibrator assembly to travel along the length of the carrier assembly.

31. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the vibrator panel is suspended from the transport assembly, and the vibrator panel is positioned to contact the surface of the vessel.

32. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the apparatus further comprises a static discharge assembly, the static discharge assembly positioned a distance from the vessel, the distance being of a size sufficient to allow static electricity produced upon filling the vessel to discharge from the vessel to the static discharge assembly.

33. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the static discharge assembly comprises a plurality of metallic protrusions and an electrical ground, the metallic protrusions being connected to the electrical ground.

34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the vibrator assembly comprises a transport assembly and a vibrator panel, the transport assembly being

positioned to allow the vibrator assembly to travel along the length of the carrier assembly, and wherein the static discharge assembly comprises a plurality of metallic protrusions, the metallic protrusions being attached to the transport assembly.

35. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the container comprises an upper hopper and a lower hopper, and the lower hopper is attached to the carrier assembly and adapted to receive a portion of the vessel.

36. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the container further comprises a second static discharge assembly, and the second static discharge assembly is positioned adjacent to the opening.

37. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the second static discharge assembly comprises a corona discharge ionization bar.

38. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for filling a vessel with particulate matter, the vessel having a surface and an internal volume, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a carrier assembly, the carrier assembly having a length and a width and being provided at an angle greater than zero degrees and less than or equal to ninety degrees relative to horizontal, the carrier assembly being adapted to carry and retain the vessel,

(b) a static discharge assembly, the static discharge assembly positioned a distance from the vessel, the distance being of a size sufficient to allow static electricity produced upon filling the vessel to discharge from the vessel to the static discharge assembly, and

(c) a container, the container comprising at least one opening and being adapted to contain the particulate matter, the container positioned above the vessel so that the particles flow through the opening and into the internal volume of the vessel.

39. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the static discharge assembly comprises a plurality of metallic protrusions and an electrical ground, the metallic protrusions being connected to the electrical ground.

40. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the container comprises an upper hopper and a lower hopper, and the lower hopper is attached to the carrier assembly and adapted to receive a portion of the vessel.

41. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the container further comprises a second static discharge assembly, and the second static discharge assembly is positioned adjacent to the opening.

42. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the second static discharge assembly comprises a corona discharge ionization bar.

43. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for filling a vessel with particulate matter, the vessel having a surface and an internal volume, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a carrier assembly, the carrier assembly having a length and a width and being provided at an angle greater than zero degrees and less than or equal to ninety degrees relative to horizontal, the carrier assembly being adapted to carry and retain the vessel,

(b) an actuating assembly, the actuating assembly positioned to contact a portion of the carrier assembly and being adapted to reciprocally move the carrier assembly,

(c) a vibrator assembly, the vibrator assembly positioned to contact at least one of a portion of the carrier assembly or the surface of the vessel to impart a vibratory motion to the vessel when disposed on the carrier assembly,

(d) a static discharge assembly, the static discharge assembly positioned a distance from the vessel, the distance being of a size sufficient to allow static electricity produced upon filling the vessel to discharge from the vessel to the static discharge assembly, and

(e) a container, the container comprising at least one opening and being adapted to contain the particulate matter, the container positioned above the vessel so that the particles flow through the opening and into the internal volume of the vessel.

44. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the actuating assembly comprises a spiral cam assembly, the cam assembly being adapted to provide a low frequency tamping motion to the carrier assembly.

45. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the vibrator assembly comprises a transport assembly and a vibrator panel, and the transport assembly is positioned to allow the vibrator assembly to travel along the length of the carrier assembly.

46. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the vibrator panel is suspended from the transport assembly, and the vibrator panel is positioned to contact the surface of the vessel.

47. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the static discharge assembly comprises a plurality of metallic protrusions, and the metallic protrusions are attached to the transport assembly.

48. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the static discharge assembly comprises a plurality of metallic protrusions and an electrical ground, the metallic protrusions being connected to the electrical ground.

49. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the container comprises an upper hopper and a lower hopper, and the lower hopper is attached to the carrier assembly and adapted to receive a portion of the vessel.

50. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the container further comprises a second static discharge assembly, and the second static discharge assembly is positioned adjacent to the opening.

51. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the second static discharge assembly comprises a corona discharge ionization bar.

52. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the apparatus further comprises a lighting assembly, and the lighting assembly is positioned beneath the carrier assembly and adapted to light the vessel when the vessel is positioned on the carrier assembly.

53. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the apparatus further comprises a supply of particulate matter and a conveyer, the conveyer being adapted to transport the particulate matter from the supply to the container.

54. (Previously presented) A method for filling a panel having an internal volume with aerogel particles, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a panel having a length, width, and an internal volume,
(b) providing a supply of aerogel particles,
(c) subjecting the panel to a vibratory motion,
(d) filling at least a portion of the internal volume of the panel with aerogel particles while the panel is being subjected to the vibratory motion,
(e) repeating steps (c) and (d) until the internal volume of the panel has been filled with the desired amount of aerogel particles.

55. (Previously presented) The method of Claim ~~1~~ 54, wherein the at least a portion of a static electricity produced prior to or during step (d) is discharged.

56. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the panel has one or more internal channels.

57. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the panel is comprised in a glazing system.

58. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the method further comprises subjecting the panel to at least one tamping motion.

59. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the aerogel particles are hydrophobic.

60. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the aerogel particles are metal oxide aerogel particles.

61. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 60, wherein the metal oxide aerogel particles are selected from the group consisting of silica aerogel particles, titania aerogel particles, alumina aerogel particles, and any combination thereof.

62. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the aerogel particles are organic aerogel particles.